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tell, but in the last two years they have increased about a hundred.

Have you any data to enable you to guess the amount of promissory notes in circulation by the country bankers?—No, but I have heard it calculated at thirty millions.

Can you inform the committee if any one house circulates £100,000. of one and two pound notes?—I should think not, I think that I have heard of as much as £70,000.

Do you know whether any manufacturers issue their notes in payment to their labourers?—Some do; only a few of those are made payable in London.

Has it not been a custom for young men of inconsiderable property to buy goods for manufacturers at unusually long credits, for the purposes of carrying to Saint Domingo or South America upon speculation, and for which they give in payment bills at from twelve to eighteen months date?—It is the custom.

How do persons receiving those bills contrive so convert them into money for the purposes of their own trade?—By lodging them with good houses, and drawing other bills against them at two or three months, and renewing them when they become due, and so on till the payment is fulfilled.

Does not the public money paid in by the tax-gatherers previous to the dividends, create for the time a considerable scarcity of notes?—Yes, there is a period prior to the dividends, in which large sums of money are paid to the bank from the tax-gatherers, which at such time occasions great scarcity, and is an inconvenience to the trade.

Can you form any idea what would be the consequence of reducing the amount of the circulating paper in the country by refusing to discount so largely as at present?—*A more steady and regular price of*

all commodities, with more confidence in all money transactions.

Are you not of opinion that the bank of England notes are at present more confined to the circulation of the metropolis and its neighbourhood, than they were a few years ago?—They are very much so, from the country bankers substituting their own.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

AS an elegant, correct pronunciation of the English language is now considered by the polite and fashionable as an object of the utmost importance, I hope, you will give the following remarks a place in your useful magazine.

I believe, that Mr. Walker's critical pronouncing dictionary of the English language, is generally considered, (with a very few exceptions), as the best standard of English pronunciation. Some respectable speakers however are of opinion, that Mr. Jones's dictionary is preferable even to Walker's. How this may be, I cannot say, but I can positively affirm, that a vicious mode of pronunciation, (which is not supported either by Jones or Walker), is becoming very general, even among people who should know better. I mean pronouncing the letter u like a oo. It is not uncommon, to hear persons who have got a classical education, and who profess that they pronounce exactly according to Walker's mode, and yet when the words, supreme, superior, superintending, absorption, consume, duty, suit, sue, blue, &c. occur, they pronounce them as if written, *soopreme, sooperior, dooty, soot, sooo, bloo, &c.*

This mode of pronunciation can

proceed only from ignorance, or affectation, as Mr. Walker has so clearly marked their true pronunciation, that no person can mistake it. (See his dictionary, no. 454.) From which it appears, that the true pronunciation of su, under accent, is neither *shu*, nor *soo*, but *seú*; the s pure, as in *sit*, the e, as in *me*, but very short, the u, as in *cube*; and every accented su should be pronounced in like manner, except sugar, and sure, and their compounds.

A person not accustomed to it, would feel a little hiatus before he could acquire the true pronunciation, as it is not very easy to prevent the letter s from running into aspiration, before an accented u. Indeed, Mr. Walker observes, that s, in that situation, has a strong tendency to aspirate; and should it be aspirated in all such cases, it would be but a very small deviation from rule, when compared with *ooing*. It is very evident, that Mr. Walker was so far from being an advocate for *ooing*, that he has pointedly condemned it. For after giving a list of about a dozen of words, in which custom had so far

got the better of analogy, as to pronounce *u*, like a short *oo*, he informs us, that *they were all* the words in the language, in which *u* took an *oo* sound, (see no. 174), which he every where condemns calling it a "Cockney pronunciation," "a whimsical deviation;" and adds, that we cannot be too careful in checking the growth of such an *unmeaning irregularity*.

That beaux and cox-combs should prefer affectation to correctness, is not to be wondered at; but that any person of sense and education should do so, is astonishing.

Of all the places into which this Cockney pronunciation has been introduced, there is no place in which it is so peculiarly disgusting as in the pulpit. It is ridiculous in any place, but there, it is worse than ridiculous; as every thing that has an air of flippancy, has so far an air of irreligion.

My reason for throwing out these few hints to the public is, that I hope it may induce some persons of ability to endeavour to check the growth of this unmeaning irregularity.

M. G.

Dromore, 15th September.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

AN ACCOUNT OF WILLIAM PENN.

(Concluded from page 128.)

"Mid, desert wastea, and bleak and dreary wilds,
He joys to make the rural village rise,
And tame the wand'ring hordes of savage men,
To industry and peace. What gen'rous mind
Amid Columbia's darkly-frowning woods,
Bade embryo states arise, whose growing pow'r
Shall awe the world; the last, the sure retreat

BELFAST MAG. NO. XXXVIII.

Of liberty and peace, when despot force
O'er groaning realms shall spread his iron hand

And adamantine chain! O, noble Penn,
Thus rising nations shall with grateful hearts
Proclaim their father! Infants yet unborn
Shall lisp thy name in blessings, whilst
their sires
Record the wond'rous tale. Hear this,
and blush,
Ye champions of the earth, who arm'd
with now'r,

B. G.